

the Gateway

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USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003

News Briefs

Award Winners

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Beverly Dennie and Ernest Zschiesche, 469th Air Base Group Legal Office.

Sergeant Dennie recently received the U.S. Air Forces in Europe David Westbrook Award given to the outstanding reserve paralegal. Mr. Zschiesche received the USAFE Harold Vague Award given to the outstanding legal service civilian.

Closure Town Hall

Col. Bradley Denison will host the first "Rhein-Main Community Drawdown Meeting" Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. at the base theater.

Issues being discussed include Rhein-Main December 2005 drawdown closure plans for services, schools, housing, BX, and other quality of life issues.

Later meetings are being scheduled to discuss manpower and assignments for all civilian and military members.

At the end of the presentation there will be a forum for questions and answers. To facilitate the exchange of information, please submit questions to the public affairs office at pa@rheinmain.af.mil.

Annual Awards

The Rhein-Main Community Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Feb. 7 at the Zeppelinhäus. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 for club members and \$17 for nonmembers. Each organization will have a ticket sales representative.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina M. Rumsey

Assuming command

Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, gaining command of 435th Air Base Wing assumes command from Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley, Commander, 3rd Air Force, during the wing reorganization ceremony Jan. 15 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The dual wing reorganization ceremony separated Ramstein's operational and contingency support missions and the base operating and Kaiserslautern Military Community support functions.

America's Airmen getting it done with courage, commitment

By Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – People, aircraft and a commitment to core values have kept U.S. Air Forces in Europe's top leader in the Air Force more than 31 years, and these same attributes will continue to be the bedrock of the military's success, Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander, said recently.

The integrity, commitment to excellence and service before self of America's

airmen have been inspirational, he said.

"I came in the Air Force 31 years ago, and had every intention of getting out after four years," said the general, who holds a doctorate in chemical engineering. "I thought it would be pretty exciting to be in the chemical engineering business. But I fell in love with 480 knots and wearing G-suits, and I just never got over it.

"I also enjoy talking with our airmen, and I've found that they're incredible," said the general, who is a firm believer in keep-

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Project Wizard set to transform library

SEMBACH AIR BASE, Germany – Thanks to a new program aimed at increasing learning opportunities for military and family members, patrons of U.S. Air Forces in Europe libraries will see big changes throughout the library system.

The program, called 'Project Wizard,' is aimed at providing better library resources and services. It is one of 12 combat and special interest programs initiated by Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander.

The program is intended to give a boost to USAFE programs already in place.

The three main goals of Project Wizard are to improve library collections, to offer better service to customers of all ages, and to meet or exceed Air Force Library Golden Eagle Standards command-wide. The program is re-energizing the command's library programs, said Melinda Mosley, USAFE Services command librarian.

"In addition, libraries throughout USAFE already are benefiting from books ordered with funds provided by General Foglesong in September," she said. "Those new books will soon be on the shelves and in the hands of our customers."

One of the new classes customers can look forward to is the Electronic Resources Training — quarterly one-hour training sessions taught by base library staff focusing on the on-line databases available via the libraries.

In the class, students of all ages will receive hands-on training on available research tools, and more importantly, learn how to access and effectively use the resources, said Mosely. Database-specific training guides will be given out, as well as brochures describing the databases and how to log in from home.

Mosley said all USAFE libraries have a collection of reference books, magazines,



Photo by 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland

Col. Bradley Denison, 469th Air Base Group Commander, looks over his daughter Teresa's shoulder at the Rhein-Main library. The library is taking full advantage of several new programs provided by Project Wizard.

and on-line databases to help professional military education, college and high school students meet their goals.

In addition, anyone studying for a College Level Examination Program test can check out a video or book on most subjects.

Students also can prepare for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, Graduate Record Exam and other similar tests by using Peterson's On-line; one of the library databases, said Mosley.

"You can register and take a practice test using this resource," she said. "While you're on the site, check out the tips for getting scholarships and grants. If you can't find what you're looking for - be sure to ask for help - that's what we're here for."

Another initiative that is currently in the planning stages, and should be functional in early 2004, is a USAFE Libraries Web

site, Mosley said.

Most USAFE base libraries have an incredible range of resources for customers - from children to adults - that are well used by current patrons. Through Project Wizard, the library staff wants to reach out to those that they aren't serving, she said.

"Project Wizard will help us get the word out on what's going on at the library," Mosley said. "We'll also be asking your opinion very soon. Look for our library survey throughout the months of November and December.

"Be sure to tell us what you like best and give us your suggestions for improvements. If you're not a patron of the library, tell us why and let us know what we need to do to make you a customer," she continued. "We'll make future decisions based on your input."



Rhein-Main Library

New Library Program

The Rhein-Main Library is taking part in a new reading initiative focusing on 'courage,' hosted by U. S. Air Forces in Europe libraries and Project Wizard.

'We the People Bookshelf' is aimed to encourage reading in young people from kindergarten through high school. The program will provide one set of the 'Courage' titles for the Rhein-Main library along with posters, bookmarks and program incen-

tives. 15 books are included in the program including *The Cabin Faced West*, by Jean Fritz and *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy.

The USAFE 'We the People Bookshelf' program will begin in February 2004.

Ramstein stands up new air base wing

By Staff Sgt. Mary Davis

Kaiserslautern American editor

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany—Ramstein welcomed its first female wing commander in a unique change of command and reorganization ceremony Jan. 15 separating the host wing into two.

Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey became the new commander of the 435th Air Base Wing and the Kaiserslautern Military Community, while Col. Robert Kane assumed command of the 86th Airlift Wing in a dual change of command and wing reorganization ceremony at Hangar 3.

General Bailey, the former Aeronautical Enterprise Program Office director, will take on a dual role as air base wing and KMC commander, leading the largest American community outside the United States. As the new commander, she leads a wing composed of seven groups, providing service for Army and Air Force within the KMC.

As the KMC commander, the general provides support to more than 44,000 people living and working on five military installations - Ramstein and Sembach air bases, Vogelweh, Einsiedlerhof and Kapaun annexes.

As the new 86th Airlift Wing commander, Colonel Kane leads four groups comprised of 12 squadrons and one detachment. The wing's primary mission is to conduct airlift, airdrop and aeromedical evacuation operations flying C-9, C-20H, C-21, C-37 and C-130E aircraft.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina M. Rumsey

Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing, addresses her troops after assuming command during the Wing Reorganization Ceremony at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

A safe, festive Super Bowl celebration

Remember to respect those around you

With the American Football Conference and National Football Conference championship games over, many of us are looking forward to a great Super Bowl game on Feb. 1 between the New England Patriots and the Carolina Panthers.

Undoubtedly there will be numerous parties around base as people gather to watch and cheer on their favorite team. As we gather, I would ask each of you to remember to stay in the right frame of mind and don't get into a situation you will be sorry for later. Also remember to respect those around you, at the party and in the apartments around you.

Many people will choose not to stay up and watch the game. School age children have school the next day so they will need a good nights rest. Remember your neighbors and respect their right to a peaceful night sleep.



By Col. Bradley Denison

Commander,
469th Air Base Group

them drink too much and get out of control. Monitor their alcohol

If you're hosting a party, remember the guests are your responsibility. Don't let

consumption and ensure they don't drink and drive. You could easily be held accountable if a guest is later in an accident caused by driving under the influence. I would ask all hosts to do the right thing and not allow their friends to lose control and do something they will later regret. Watch out for your buddy.

In the dorms and contingency lodging it is especially important to remember that we have special rules and regulations, such as maintaining quiet hours and not making loud noises that may disturb others on crew rest.

Above all, have a good time. The Super Bowl is a great thing to watch and celebrate. Don't let it be a bad thing for you.

I ask each of you to remember to respect those around you and think before you act.

The modern Pony Express

By Lt. Col. Michael Polhemus
Commander, 726th Air Mobility Squadron

A friend of mine made an interesting observation the other day, and it went something like this... "The history of Rhein-Main Air Base can be written as chapters in many books. The grandest of all serve as the bookends. On the left side is the epic of the Berlin Airlift so soon after its birth as an American airbase. On the right is the record-breaking effort we find ourselves in today, as base closure sits on our doorstep."

Day in and day out since shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, the constant presence of nearly 800 Air Mobility Command men and women has literally enabled tens of thousands of missions to launch off our ramp directly into combat. Of this AMC team, the 726th permanent party is only about one-fourth of the total. The rest are ground support augmentation and aircrew members deployed here for 90 to 120 day tours. Many are Guardsmen or Reservists. Most have left families and even jobs.

All are here working 12 hrs or more per day, partnered along the side of our permanent and Team Rhein-Main staff, making this 24/7 mission happen.

I would like to tell you just a little bit of what it takes to get one of those missions off the ramp.

First, a little background: Our operation can be compared to the Pony Express. In the old days, the man would ride the horse until the horse could go no more. He would then hop on another and continue the ride. Today, our horses are modern airlift aircraft with the capacity to continue operating well beyond the limits of the riders.

So instead of swapping horses, we now swap the crews. On a typical mission, the aircraft lands, changes crews, uploads fuel

and cargo, and departs in approximately three hours. The near-feverish pace continues 24 hours a day, every day, often handling as many as 50 missions.

Our mission review starts out with a "30 minute out" call to the command center. With that, many simultaneous efforts are triggered that will culminate in the launch in just over three hours. The maintenance team is the first to make contact with the aircraft as it taxis and "blocks in" to its parking spot. One portion of the team tends to the aircraft, checking engine fluid levels, tires, and accomplishes a post-flight inspection. Another team meets with the aircrew to discuss the status of the aircraft and its systems to ensure full operational capability. Yet another team guides the first of several fuel trucks into place under the wing. Each truck contains up to 40,000 pounds of fuel, all to be loaded for the next leg of the mission.

If there are malfunctions of any kind on the aircraft, specialists are called in to troubleshoot and repair the problem. Imagine if you can, this level of activity occurring on eight aircraft at once! Due to limited number of ground teams, fuel trucks, and other support assets, this must be a carefully orchestrated effort to get everything done during the allotted ground time.

Meanwhile, the aerial port team arrives on-scene to join the fun. The "Port Dawgs" tend to the cargo and passengers...the reason for the mission. As you watch, a strange, long, multi-wheeled, flatbed-looking vehicle called a "Tunner," pulls up to the rear. The massive cargo doors swing open and the cargo transfer begins. The palletized or rolling cargo slides onto the Tunner for transfer to the cargo yard and further processing.

For the cargo upload, the utmost

The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.

The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.

If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.

Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.

The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf.

If you have any questions, call the 469th ABG/PA office at 330-7804 or e-mail at Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil.

Col. Bradley Denison
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

330-7779

precision must be achieved. Every piece of the load must be weighed and positioned to maintain the balance of the aircraft. Too much weight forward or aft and the aircraft would be rendered uncontrollable in flight. Specialists in the load planning section make

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the
Gateway

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*The deadline for the Feb. 6
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4 p.m., Jan. 29.*

Airmen, from Page 1

ing grounded and remembering where he came from. "They do an unbelievable job for us, and they hardly ask for anything. So I love people who put service before self. As a result of that, I've stuck around this great institution of ours for a long time now and I've had a great time doing it."

His love for America's airmen became even more prevalent after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"I was in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, and like everyone else, my life changed forever ... this was, in a sense, my generation's Pearl Harbor," the general said. "I couldn't be more proud of how the U.S. Air Force responded over the last couple of years. When the President issued his call for arms, without any doubts, our Air Force stepped forward with great strength. I'm incredibly proud of the initiatives and dedication (of our Air Force)."

This dedication to excellence is also shared within USAFE, said General Foglesong.

"Our goal in USAFE is to be a part of this incredible team that we call the United States Air Force," he said. "We have contributed over here in the same way that every other major command has – we've provided tanker support, tactical airlift support and we've provided fighter support – our people have responded all across the world this past year. We're ready, trained and we're motivated to go do the job our president has asked us to do. My perspective up to this point is one of great pride as to how everyone has responded, and continues to on a day-to-day basis."

When looking ahead to the New Year, it's important that USAFE's airmen remember the command's vision, mission and goals, the general said.

"I think if you'll look at our vision, it probably says it all," General Foglesong said. "We want to be leading the world's most respected expeditionary all-purpose Air Force. That's a mouthful, but all we want to do is be in front of what the Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force ask. When they ask us to respond in some way, we would like to be on the leading-edge for them. That's our vision."

"Our mission is pretty simple," the general continued. "I've eliminated all of the acronyms, so that everybody in USAFE – Airman Foglesong up to General Foglesong and everybody in between – understands what our mission is. We all need to know that our mission is to be ready to fight; postured to respond; and provide incredible services to these incredible people we have over here."

"We have now developed what I affectionately refer to as Combat and Special Interest Programs that will allow us to operationalize that mission," he said. "There are 12 special programs and initiatives that we've put together to work on the morale of our people, readiness for our people and services for our people – they are all initiatives that commanders would like to have available. They're the right things to do, and it allows us to put some discipline and focus as to how we're going to dedicate our resources over the next year."

Once such program is Combat Fitness, which fits right in line with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Fit to Fight Program.

"This program ties all of the different initiatives for fitness under one umbrella, so it can be engineered and advocated in the right way," said the general.

Another program called Combat Flightline is dedicated to enhancing the readiness of not only the most important aspect of our flightline – our people – but also our equipment, General Foglesong said.

"I could go on and tell you about all of the programs, but you get a sense of what I'm talking about. In order to operationalize that mission I referred to earlier – being ready to fight; postured to respond; and providing great services – we've now identified these programs as the most logical way to get there," he said. "I would expect us to continue down the path of working to enhance these programs. And I'm very sure if we're called on, we'll be ready to do whatever the President asks us to do."

As for the future ...

"One of these days I'll be sitting in a rocking chair on a porch at our ranch in Red Lodge, Montana, and I'll still be telling people that we're the world's most inspirational Air Force to our friends, and we're the world's most intimidating Air Force to our enemies," General Foglesong said. "We have people with incredible courage. We have people who lay their lives on the line for this great nation of ours every day."

Rhein-Main Force Protection—Your life depends on it

—**Keep a low profile:** Your dress, conduct and mannerisms should not attract attention. Make an effort to blend into the local environment. Avoid publicity and avoid large gatherings, civil disturbances and demonstrations.

—**Be Unpredictable:** Vary your route to and from work, vary your dress when possible. Avoid deserted streets, roads and areas you're not familiar with, let someone close to you know when you're going, what you'll be doing and when you should be back.

—**Be Alert:** Watch for anything suspicious or out of place. If you notice a person monitoring the base (looking at operations, writing notes, filming/photo entry procedures, etc.) or a vehicle suspiciously parked adjacent to the base that appears to be con-

ducting surveillance, report it immediately to security forces, 330-7177 or the Office of Special Investigations, 330-7702.

— If you are approached by a stranger asking you inappropriate questions concerning your government affiliation, your deployment status, why are you here...report it!

— For persons suspiciously walking along the housing, clinic or base perimeter and are unidentified, their actions must be monitored and reported immediately to prevent unauthorized access.

— For either situation, gather as much info as possible (e.g. location, description, accents, license number, time of incident, etc.) but DO NOT endanger your life trying to do so.

(Information provided courtesy of 469th Air Base Group Security Forces)

Warriors of the Week



Senior Airman Jacob Kelecava

Unit: Security Forces
Time in service: 3.5 years
Time at Rhein-Main: 3 years
Duty Title: Security forces armorer
Hometown: Salem, Ohio
Hobbies: Fixing and building stuff
What has been your best AF experience?
 Being accepted for canine school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

469th Air Base Group Security Forces



Staff Sgt. Nasim Norrisromine

Unit: Security Forces
Time in service: 5 years
Time at Rhein-Main: 3 years
Duty Title: "C" Flight Shift Element Leader
Hometown: Portland, Ore.
Hobbies: Watching movies and running
What has been your best AF experience?
 Having the opportunity to be a shift leader and lead troops.

Civil Relief Act helps service members

Service Member's Civil Relief Act replaces the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, available to all military members

By Capt. Jack Spencer
Legal Office

Recently, important changes were made to the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act. This Act was passed by Congress to give military members help in certain areas of concern impacted by their military service.

The new Act is called the Service Member's Civil Relief Act (SCRA). The Act applies to Active Duty members, and Reservists and National Guard members who are serving on Active Duty. Some of the changes are:

Automatic Stay of Proceedings: The SCRA provides for an automatic, non-dis-

cretionary 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application of the service member. This means that service members who cannot attend a scheduled civil court hearing because of military service will be granted a minimum delay of 90 days to make their appearance. Previously, all stays were discretionary with the courts.

6% Interest Cap: Any debt, including credit cards, a member incurred before going on active-duty has the interest capped at a maximum of 6% as of the date they entered active duty.

The 6% interest rate cap for obligations and liabilities of service members incurred before military service results in a reduction of monthly payments. Any interest in excess of the 6% cap is forgiven. The new language clarifies that the 6% cap is mandatory and that any interest amounts in excess of 6% are forgiven.

Right to Terminate Automobile Leases: Any active duty service member who received permanent change of station

orders or who is being deployed for 180 days or more may terminate an automobile lease in the United States. The member must provide written notice of termination to the lessee and return the vehicle within 15 days of the written notice. Previously, there was no right to terminate automobile leases.

Right to Terminate Residential Leases: An active duty service member who received permanent change of station orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days may terminate a housing lease with 30 days written notice. Previously, a service member could be obligated to pay rent for housing he or she is unable to occupy because of a government-required move. This only applies to rentals in the United States.

There are also some important new tax protections for service members. If you have questions about this or another legal issue, please contact the legal office at DSN 330-7275 or Commercial 699-7275.

Rhein-Main blotter

compiled by Staff Sgt. Mark Long



Jan. 2—A sergeant telephoned the security forces control center (SFCC) and stated there was a weapon found in the male latrine at Bldg. 400, the passenger terminal. The sergeant said that during an amnesty sweep of the terminal he found a 9MM Beretta with Arabic inscriptions in the water tank of the toilet. Patrols responded and seized the weapon.

Jan. 4—While conducting a walking patrol of the fence line in Gateway Gardens security forces discovered a cut approximately 35 inches in diameter, a white cloth approximately 18 inches in length and 8 inches wide, along with two pair of wire cutters. The fence was repaired and a search of the housing area was conducted with negative findings.

Jan. 4—An unknown person arrived at the main gate by taxi and did not have enough money to pay the driver and needed to go to the Automatic Teller Machine. The person walked on base

and never returned. A description was sent out and a sector search for the suspect was conducted with negative findings. A "be on the look out" notice was issued to all gates.

Jan. 6—A sergeant telephoned the SFCC and related a private removed his clothes and defecated on the floor in the barracks and appeared to be intoxicated. Patrols responded and apprehended the subject. The subject was later charged with disorderly conduct and indecent exposure.

Jan. 8—During the search of a vehicle a knife with a 7-inch blade and a bottle of pepper spray were discovered. Patrols responded and informed the driver the above items are prohibited on base and was denied entry onto the installation.

Jan. 11—A specialist returned to her barracks room to find her luggage missing. She found the luggage at the staff duty desk, and after searching her items found that \$5,000 in government funds were missing. Patrols responded and an incident report was accomplished.

Jan. 12—An individual telephoned the SFCC and relayed he found a brown

box approximately 2 feet long and 2 feet wide in the parking lot of Bldg. 166, the commissary. Security Forces set up a cordon and examined the box and deemed it was full of trash.

Jan. 13—A sergeant telephoned the SFCC and related a specialist reported to work and smelled like, what he believed to be, an alcoholic beverage. The specialist stated he had consumed four drinks prior to work and operated a government owned vehicle. The specialist was charged accordingly.

Jan. 18—A sergeant telephoned the SFCC relating he had informed another sergeant not to smoke next to the barracks and pointed to the designated area. The person related he would comply after he finished. Patrols arrived on scene made contact and the person also appeared intoxicated. The sergeant was charged accordingly.

Jan. 19—A civilian entered the SFCC and relayed he parked his car in downtown Frankfurt and returned a day later to find all four tires had been cut and were flat and the front and rear windows were smashed out. Polizei responded and filed a report.

Education success begins with parents

By Barbara Worden

USAFE School Liaison Office

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) — In today's hectic world, finding both the time and the best way to productively support your child's education can be a challenge. Although most parents know their daily actions at home play a very important role in their children's education, there are other avenues in which they may be more actively involved.

The Internet, and its vast array of information, is a great source for parents to expand their knowledge on ways to get involved in their child's education. Two particular Internet sites that parents may find

beneficial are the Military Child Education Coalition and the National Parent Teacher Associate Web sites.

The MCEC Coalition and their corresponding Web site, focuses on improving the life of the military child. The site has links to aid parents and students on their voyage through elementary and secondary school systems. A link on this site is "Military Organizations Devoted to the Military Family." Other links provide information on scholarship and university programs, enrichment and on-line home study programs. The site can be found at: <http://www.militarychild.org>.

The National PTA Web site also has articles designed to promote parental in-

volvement. By accessing the site and clicking on the "parent involvement" tab at the top of the page, parents can find information to assist them in helping their child succeed. The Web address is: <http://www.pta.org>. Individuals are not required to be a member of the PTA organization to gain access to or benefit from the site.

By investing time in a child's education today, parents can increase their child's chances for success in school and for attaining a brighter tomorrow.

If you are a parent, guardian, or just interested in becoming involved in the education of U.S. Air Forces in Europe children, contact your installation School Liaison Office.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland

Spell “spelling”

5th grader Jay Rogers, winner of the 2004 Spelling Bee, spells a word as runner-up Jessica Rojas looks on during the final round Friday. Jay won by spelling “napoleon” and “argonaut” correctly. Halverson-Tunner Elementary School hosted 23 children from 3rd to 8th grade during the 2004 Spelling Bee. During the final round Jay and Jessica spelled 20 of the total 67 words used. Jay will compete next at the European region spelling bee.

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sure that does not happen.

As if there was not already enough activity at the aircraft, the ground services team arrives with their support gear to recharge the on-board water supply, service the lavatories, remove trash, and prepare the passenger area for another load.

Once our arriving passengers finish their short march to a bus, it heads for the passenger terminal. The Rhein-Main terminal is the largest DoD passenger terminal in the world. Daily, it sees to the airlift needs of more than 1,500 transiting personnel. On one busy day in 2003, over 4,500 travelers passed through.

In addition to the daily military aircraft workload, six to eight passenger jets transit the gates. Just like on the civilian side of the Frankfurt airport, those passengers must pass through security. The difference is they often carry large numbers of deployment bags and weapons. If you assume that every troop that comes through the door has five bags, it is possible that the ground crew must handle 7,500 bags each day. If each bag weighs 40 lbs, you are talking about a good workout as they lift and stack the bags in the belly of the aircraft.

Inside the gate, every passenger is accounted for by name and seat as the manifest is built. If there are extra seats, they are released to the Space Available program to allow folks to hitch a “nearly free” ride to the aircraft’s next destination. Once the aircraft is ready to receive, the “Pax” are

brought to the aircraft, whatever and wherever it may be.

For any orchestra to perform, there must be a conductor. For the 726th the command post plays this role. Inside the command post, the Air Mobility Command Center (AMCC) is the information conduit between all agencies, including the Tanker/Airlift Control Center (TACC) at Scott AFB, Illinois, and 817th Airlift Squadron here at Rhein-Main. The Air Terminal Operations Center (ATOC) synchronizes the loading and aircraft services while the Maintenance Operations Center (MOC) coordinates all maintenance recovery and launch actions. These key functions keep their respective ramp agencies in concert to get the missions launched on time.

So what about the aircrew? The 817th Airlift Squadron is the organization to handle that. After the aircrew lands (from some missions lasting 24 hrs), they enter “crew rest” for 12 hours before being “alerted” to fly another mission.

When notified at the “30 minute out” call, the new crew has just over three hours to get the aircraft off the ground. During that time, they receive in-depth intelligence and tactical briefings, they study their routing, ready their combat survival gear and weapons and “step to the jet.” While at the aircraft they must do a complete preflight inspection to ensure all systems are operational and verify the proper loading of the cargo and passengers.

The 817th also plays a critical command and control role. Before the crew is alerted, they must build the mission plan as it is tasked by the TACC. This includes ensuring en route and destination diplomatic clearances as well as availability of destination ground support.

For flight safety reasons, no crew-member can be disturbed until their 12-hour rest cycle is complete. The schedulers must ensure the crew rest periods are perfectly aligned with the departing missions. If crew availability is out of sync with the departure schedule, the missions are in jeopardy because of critical timing windows en route.

The flight line operation has to work like a well-oiled machine. Any one breakdown can lead to an aborted mission.

I have only begun to capture the critical elements that make this system work. Perhaps next time I can highlight all of Team Rhein-Main’s efforts like the more than 500 boxed meals the flight kitchen has to make, the 1 million pounds of fuel that one truck operator has to pump, or the rapid response required of our transient alert, vehicle maintenance and aerospace ground equipment functions each and every day.

Certainly Rhein-Main will close and the last chapter in this book will be written...but with the 500,000 passengers and 8,500 mission launches of this past year, the world surely knows that we are not closed yet.

Think safety every second of the day

By Master Sgt. Chris Hernandez
Legal Office

Have you ever thought that wearing a helmet while riding a bike is a dumb idea? Well, it's not.

My family was celebrating my son's eighth birthday at the youth center with a group of his friends. After playing rollerblade hockey for a while we decided it was time for cake and presents.

A few days before the party I found the perfect gift for him—a BMX trick bike with pegs on the front and back. I couldn't wait for him to see it.

Everyone gathered around the gifts while my son opened them. After all the presents were opened I told him to close his eyes and I would bring in the last present from Mom and Dad.

He opened his eyes so wide I thought they were going to pop out of his head and then he gave me a hug and said it was the best present.

I let him go in the gym, put his helmet on and ride the bike around for a few minutes to see what it was like. But since

the party was still going on he had to wait to ride it outside.

After he stopped riding I took a good look at the bike and started to think of when I was a kid and had a similar bike. So, I decided to ride it around for a few minutes.

Before I knew it, I felt younger and younger and started riding faster and even tried a few tricks.

Once all the children were gone and the place was cleaned up I told my son he could ride outside until it got dark. But before he had the chance, I decided to ride the bike into the other room to tell my wife how well he handles it.

Because the seat was so low I decided to stand up to pedal, and BAM! I saw stars and felt something warm running down the back of my head.

I felt very embarrassed, so I started to head back into the gym to put up the bike and hope nobody saw me. I put my hand on my head to check out the bump and pulled it away covered in blood.

So, I tell my wife I might need to go to the hospital for stitches. She thought I

was joking around and popped a blood pill left over from Halloween; until I bent down to show her. She exclaimed "Oh my God Chris, what did you do!?"

Several hours later I had a 3-inch circle shaved in my head and five stitches in the cut. For the next three weeks I had to explain to everyone how stupid I was.

So, I know many of you have ridden your bikes or children's bikes for a few feet without your helmets. Perhaps you rode it from the front lawn to the carport or across the street to the Shoppette.

You probably thought what I did, "It's only a few feet."

Well, I am living proof that you should always wear your helmet, even if you ride your bike 10 feet to tell your wife something.

I can honestly tell you that the humiliation was not the worst part of this eye opening life experience. It was the fact that I tarnished my son's eighth birthday and was not even able to finish the party that I was so excited about for weeks.

Bicycle Safety Tips

Don't get caught without the required equipment and safety gear

According to German law, bicycles are considered legal traffic and are subject to the same laws and regulations as privately owned vehicles.

Bicycle operators and passengers on U.S. military installations will wear a helmet properly fastened under the chin and light-colored clothing or reflective accessories. Helmets must meet the American National Standards Institute, Snell Memorial Foundation Standards, or Economic Commission European Standards for bicycle helmets.

Bicycle operators will not use cell phones or wear listening devices that impede hearing and the detection of impending danger.

German law states that bicyclists are required certain safety equipment. This includes:

- Two independent braking systems
- Headlight
- A bell
- Pedals with reflectors
- A taillight that can reflect light if the electrical circuit fails
- A white reflector in the front and a red reflector in the back

Bicycles are prohibited from riding on sidewalks. Children 8 years old and younger, however, must ride their bicycles on the sidewalk if bicycle paths are not available. When the road must be crossed, they must push bikes across.

Cyclists are authorized to have a passenger only if the passenger is not more than 7 years old and the bicyclist is at least 16 years old. An additional seat and footrests must be provided for the passenger.

Cyclists are not allowed to ride side by side in traffic.

Bicycles are required to ride in a single file outside city limits.

They are allowed to pass slowly on the right of stopped vehicles (for example, at a stop light) provided there is at least 1 meter between the bicycle and the vehicle being passed.

Riders are required to slow down and stop, if necessary, for passengers entering or exiting buses on bicycle paths.

Riders are prohibited from operating a cell phone.



A season to remember

469th ABG wins basketball tourney

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland
Public Affairs

Despite a tough opponent the 469th Air Base Group intramural basketball team prevailed and beat the 726th Air Mobility Squadron team to win the championship game Jan. 14.

The 469th ABG team finished the season with an overall record of 10-1, playing unbeaten throughout the championship tournament.

Although the 469th ABG team had an outstanding record, their games were not always easy.

During the championship game they found themselves behind numerous times. The 726th AMS team had a ferocious fast break and was sprinting up and down the court. However, their speed couldn't last and the 469th ABG kept the game close.

At halftime the score was tied 18-18.

To begin the second half the 469th ABG team came out strong and took an early seven point lead. The 726th AMS fought back and cut the lead to two.

However, fatigue was setting in. With 1 minute left the 469th ABG went up by eight; the biggest lead of the night. The 726th AMS made one last push but couldn't make up the difference.

Markus Redmond led the 469th ABG team in scoring with 20 points in the final. John Cook led the 726th AMS team with 15 points.

"I think everyone involved had a great time this basketball season," said Fred Miller, 469th ABG team member. "Winning the championship was an added bonus to a great season."



(Above) 43, Eddie Lawler of the 726th Air Mobility Squadron, jumps to block a shot during the Rhein-Main intramural basketball championship game Jan. 14. (Right) Ryan Postlewait, 469th Air Base Group, shoots a free throw. The 469th won the game 45-39.



Sports Briefs



Photo by Lt. Col. Dennis Kitterman

Setting up the play

Chris Kitterman scans the defense during the 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the youth center Jan. 10. Chris, along with teammates Dan Kitterman, Nic Yocum and Bryanna Garner, placed first in the older division. 34 youth on 10 teams participated in the tournament. The youth center hosted the tournament as part of a lock-in that hosted 32 youth, ages nine to 13.

Country dancing

The 469th Air Base Group Services Flight sponsors a Country Dance Night from 7-11 p.m. tonight at the Zeppelinhaus.

Instructors will be on hand to teach the latest line dances from 7-8 p.m. After that it's showtime.

Admission is free for club members and \$5 for nonmembers.

Scrapbooking

The 469th Air Base Group Family Support Center offers a free Scrapbooking class tonight from 6-10 p.m. Come learn how to preserve your old memories.

Participants should bring albums and photos. The class will provide the rest of the supplies.

Free child care is provided at Time for Tots. Call 330/699-7992 to sign up.

Fitness fest

The fitness center sponsors the 2004 Rhein-Main Fitness Fest from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Participants can receive exercise tips, try their hand at three aerobic stations, three strength endurance stations and a 5K run. There will also be prize giveaways and activities for children.

For more information, call the fitness center staff at 330-7151.

Positive Parenting

The family support center sponsors a Positive Parenting class for parents of two to 12 year olds Thursday at 6 p.m. The class focuses on ways parents can make the family a warm, supporting network while teaching kids courage, responsibility, cooperation and self-esteem. Call the FSC at 330-7992 for more information.

Shadow Day

The Rhein-Main Shadow Day is scheduled for Feb. 2. This is a great opportunity for kids to find out what their parents really do while on to job.

Awards Breakfast

The Rhein-Main Community Awards Breakfast at the Zeppelinhaus will be Thursday at 7:30 a.m.

The breakfast recognizes quarterly award winners from Team Rhein-Main. The cost is \$5 for club members and \$7 for nonmembers.

Contact 1st Sgt. Timothy Bolon or Tech. Sgt. Monica Adams by close of business Monday to sign up.

Super Bowl XXXVIII

The Rocket Sports Lounge sponsors a Super Bowl XXXVIII Party beginning at midnight Feb. 1. There will be three big screen televisions, the kitchen's open late and there are great giveaways.

Scholarships available

The Rhein-Main Community Spouse's Club has applications available for scholarships for graduating high school seniors with a sponsor assigned to Rhein-Main.

Completed application packets must be delivered by Jan. 30.

Applications are located in the family support center and the base library or see the School Liaison Officer.

For more information, call 330-6272.

Give Parents a Break

Give Parents a Break has expanded to include children in first through fifth grade. Children ages six weeks to kindergarten will be watched in the Child Development Center and school age children will be watched in the youth center.

The program takes place Jan. 30 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The last day to sign up is Wednesday.

See your first sergeant or stop by the family support center in Bldg. 347 to sign up. Call 330/699-7992 for more information.

Spouse scholarships

The Aerospace Education Foundation has 30 \$1,000 scholarships available to Air Force spouses. A GPA of 3.5 or higher is a requirement.

Applications are available at the education center in Bldg. 347 and are due no later than Jan. 30. Call 330-7484 for more details.

Movies at Rhein-Main

Tonight - "Lord of the Rings--Return of the King," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Saturday - "Elf," (PG), 5 p.m., and "The Matrix Revolutions," (R), 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - "Runaway Jury," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Wednesday - "Chasing Liberty," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Jan. 30 - "Peter Pan," (PG), 7 p.m.

Jan. 31 - "Looney Tunes Back in Action," (PG), 5 p.m. and "Love Actually," (R), 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 1 - "Radio," (PG), 7 p.m.

Feb. 4 - "Torque," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at
www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp

Wanted

Searching for a clarinet teacher for our 8th grader. Our child has played clarinet for one and a half years. Live in Frankfurt. 069-9563-8799.

Time for Tots

Time for Tots is a free, parent-run play group for kids five and under. It is a great way to have your child interact with others, and it is a great way to meet other parents.

New groups are forming now. Call 330-7992 to find out winter group times.

Tax Help

Rhein-Main Unit Tax Advisors will be available for help in preparing and filing tax returns beginning Feb. 2.

Contact the legal office at 330- 7275 to identify specific unit representatives.

Fasching, not only a German tradition

By 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland
Public Affairs

Throughout the world, different cultures celebrate the driving out of winter and the beginning of Lent or the beginning of the fast. In the United States, cities celebrate Mardi Gras. Here in Germany, they celebrate Fasching or Karneval.

The Fasching season begins at 11:11 a.m. Nov. 11 and culminates with a final celebration the day before Ash Wednesday, also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. It is also called Fastnacht or Fassenacht in Mainz.

The celebration goes back to pagan times, and was a way of driving out the evil spirits of winter and encouraging the coming of spring and good crops. Ugly masks worn for this purpose are still worn in carnival festivals in southern Germany. Karneval can be traced back to pagan Roman festivals, which may explain why Köln and Mainz, two ancient cities with Roman history, have such big carnivals.

In the Middle Ages, Karneval gave the people a break from the tightly structured class system, as they were able to hide their social background behind imaginative masks and costumes. Poor people were able to mix with all other levels of society and share fun with them. In those days people would dress up as knights, damsels and even priests, as a way of making fun of them.

Traditions vary, but two things are always present: Noise and masks. The level of noise has reached new heights



Courtesy Photo

Fasching parades, like this one in Forschheim, are an important part of the Fasching celebration. The 726th Air Mobility Squadron will participate in the Trebur parade Feb. 22.

with the "Guggenmusik," which has been spreading from Basel to all parts of the German-speaking Europe.

"Guggenmusik" is very rhythmic, played by ear and from the heart, performed by drums, brass instruments, and anything else that makes noise. A few instruments carry the melody, the rest provide a continuous beat.

Fastnacht societies usually prescribe costumes for the group. However, in areas where Karneval and Fasching are

celebrated the choice of costume is up to the individual.

Celebrations along the Rhein, from the Baseler Fastnacht down to Mainz, Köln and Düsseldorf, are especially intense. Big pageants with costumed marchers, masked dancers and floats are especially colorful in the cities of Köln and Mainz, where it is almost a civic duty to join the fun. The celebrating continues until midnight when the merrymaking and foolishness comes to a sudden halt.

Fasching parade schedule for local area

■ Feb. 22	2 p.m.	Frankfurt	■ Feb. 23	11:11 a.m.	Mainz
■ Feb. 22	2 p.m.	Wiesbaden	■ Feb. 23	1 p.m.	Köln
■ Feb. 22	2 p.m.	Trebur	■ Feb. 23	1:30 p.m.	Neu-Isenburg
■ Feb. 22	2:11 p.m.	Dreieich	■ Feb. 24	1:30 p.m.	Dreieich-Sprendlingen

